

10/591645

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 05 SEP 2006

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07553.0065

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Katsuya OKUMURA et al.) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Not Yet Assigned)
National Stage of International Application)
No. PCT/JP2005/003609 under 35 U.S.C.)
371, for PROBE AND METHOD OF)
MANUFACTURING PROBE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. With exception of the U.S. publication copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 11-051970 - The relevance of this document is discussed at pages 2 and 3 of the specification of the present application. An English-language translation of this document is also enclosed.
2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 08-306749 - The relevance of this document is discussed at pages 2 and 3 of the specification of the present application. An English-language translation of this document is also enclosed.
3. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-132854 - The relevance of this document is discussed at pages 2 and 3 of the specification of the present application. An English-language translation of this document is also enclosed.
4. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2004-056078 - An English-language translation of this document is enclosed.
5. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-115637 - An English-language translation of this document is enclosed.
6. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-221370 - An English-language translation of this document is enclosed.
7. German Patent Publication No. 103 23 224 A1

Also enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing documents 4-6 and setting forth the relevance thereof.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 

David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220

Dated: September 5, 2006

Enclosures
DWH/FPD/sci

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				10/591645	
				<i>Application Number</i>	Not Yet Assigned
				<i>Filing Date</i>	September 5, 2006
				<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Katsuya OKUMURA et al.
				<i>Art Unit</i>	Not Yet Assigned
				<i>Examiner Name</i>	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	07553.0065

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-2003/0218252 A1	11-27-2003	SUZUKI et al.	
		US-			

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP 11-051970	02-26-1999	FUKUSHIMA	
		JP 08-306749	11-22-1996	NAGAO et al.	
		JP 10-132854	05-22-1998	TATSUMA	
		JP 2004-056078	02-19-2004	SUZUKI et al.	
		JP 10-115637	05-06-1998	SUZUKI et al.	
		JP 10-221370	08-21-1998	TAI et al.	
		DE 103 23 224 A1	12-24-2003	SUZUKI et al.	
					NO

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.